

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-3 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please add new claims 5- 10.

1-3.(cancelled)

4. (original) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:4.

5. (new) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 4, wherein said nucleic acid molecule has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

6.(new) An expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:4.

7.(new) The expression vector of claim 8 wherein said nucleotide sequence is that of SEQ ID NO:3.

8. (new) A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 6.

9. (new) The host cell of claim 8 wherein said nucleic acid sequence is that of SEQ ID NO:3.

10. (new) An isolated polypeptide drawn from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 2 and 4.

RESPONSE

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-3 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 5-10 have been added. Claims 4, 5-10 are therefore presently pending in the case.

II. Support for the Amendment to the Specification the Amended Claims

The specification has been amended to include reference to the co-pending U.S. Application.

New claim 5 has been added to more clearly claim aspects of the invention. Claim 5 finds support throughout the specification and sequence listing as originally filed, with particular support being found in original claim 4 on which it depends.

New claims 6 and 7 have been added to more clearly claim aspects of the invention. Claim 6 and 7 find support throughout the specification and sequence listing as originally filed, with particular support being found at least at page 15, line 31 through page 16, line 5.

New claims 8 and 9 have been added to more clearly claim aspects of the invention. Claims 8 and 9 find support throughout the specification and sequence listing as originally filed, with particular support being found at least at page 16, lines 5-12.

New Claim 10 has been added to more clearly claim aspects of the invention. Claim 10 finds support throughout the specification and sequence listing as originally filed, with particular support being found in SEQ ID NOS:2 and 4.

As new claims 5-12 are fully supported by the specification, sequence listing and claims as originally filed, they do not constitute new matter. Entry is therefore respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

Applicants submit that the present case is in condition for allowance, and such favorable action is respectfully requested. Should Examiner Monshipouri have any questions or comments, or believe

that certain amendments of the claims might serve to improve their clarity, a telephone call to the undersigned Applicants' representative is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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